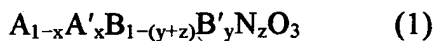


IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst composition comprising a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from alkaline earth metals;

A' represents at least one element selected from rare earth elements;

B represents at least one element selected from Ti, Zr, and Hf;

B' represents at least one element selected from transition elements (excluding rare earth elements, Ti, Zr, Hf, Rh, and Pt) and Al;

N represents at least one element selected from Rh and Pt;

x represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 \leq x \leq 0.4$;

y represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 \leq y < 0.5$;

z represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 < z \leq 0.5$; and

$\sum [X]$ represents 0 when N represents Pt alone.

2. (Original) The catalyst composition according to claim 1, wherein A represents at least one element selected from Ca, Sr, and Ba in the general formula (1).

3. (Currently Amended) The catalyst composition according to claim 2, wherein $\sum [A]$ represents 0 when N represents Pt in the general formula (1).

4. (Original) The catalyst composition according to claim 1, wherein x represents 0 in the general formula (1).

5-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst composition comprising a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (2):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from Ca, Sr and Ba;

B represents at least one element selected from Ti and Zr;

N represents at least one element selected from Rh and Pt; and

z represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 < z \leq 0.5$.

9. (Original) A catalyst composition comprising a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (3):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from Ca, Sr and Ba;

B represents Ti; and

z represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 < z \leq 0.5$.

10. (Currently Amended) A catalyst composition comprising a perovskite-type composite oxide represented by the following general formula (4):



wherein A represents at least one element selected from Ca and Ba;

B represents ~~at least one element selected from Ti and Zr~~; and

z represents an atomic ratio satisfying the following condition: $0 < z \leq 0.5$.

11-20. (Canceled).